

Fun-loving Collins spearheads Aggie line

In two seasons, the offensive lineman has made the All-SWC team twice.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

On page 47 of the Texas A&M football media guide is a mug shot of Calvin Collins wearing an industrial-strength grin. He looks happy, almost radiant — if it is possible for a 6-foot-3-inch, 290-pound man to look radiant.

Quick, somebody tell him he is an offensive lineman before it is too late.

Offensive linemen do not have easy jobs. They rarely receive fame or glamour, and the only time they do receive attention is when they get flagged for holding or let a defensive lineman sack the quarterback.

So why is Calvin Collins smiling? He's good, that's why.

Collins has been a blocking machine at right guard for the Aggies the past two seasons and has developed into one of the dominant offensive linemen in the nation.

Described by his teammates as talkative and fun-loving, "Big Cal" is also known for his extra-large personality.

"Hey, I'm just a little kid in a big man's body," Collins said. "I like having a good time with things. There's no reason why you can't have fun and take care of business at the same time."

Taking care of business is exactly what Collins has done thus far in his career at Texas A&M.

As a freshman, Collins blocked his way to All-Southwest Conference and Freshman All-American honors as the only starting underclassman on an A&M offensive line dominated by seniors.

His sophomore performance was just as impressive. Collins grabbed a first-team All-SWC selection and also received honorable mention on the All-American team.

"Calvin has tremendous quickness and footwork for someone his size," Offensive Line Coach Mike Sherman said. "His explosiveness and leverage allows him to get up under people and drive them out of the play."

"He's just a quality young man who wants to be the best and works hard to make sure he gets there."

Coming into this season, Collins is once again an All-American candidate and a virtual lock for conference honors. Collins, however, has more important things on his mind.

"I don't worry about that kind of stuff. I could get the All-City of Bryan award, and I'd still be happy," said Collins. "The national championship is the thing with me. We all know we have a chance at it. That's what we're shooting for."

The Aggies took their first step on their national championship quest with last week's 33-17 win over Louisiana State, and Collins and his fellow offensive linemen did their part by blowing open plenty of holes for Heisman Trophy Candidate Leeland McElroy.

It's a good thing that McElroy had 229 yards and three touchdowns; anything less against LSU, and Collins would have heard about it back in his room at Cain Hall.

Collins, from Beaumont West Brook High, and McElroy, out of Beaumont Central, have been roommates since the Fall of 1992.

The two standout players, who once starred for rival high schools, have formed a strong friendship.

"Leeland deserves all the awards and accolades he can get his hands on," Collins said. "He's quiet and humble and was brought up to take everything in stride."

"I don't mind blocking for that guy at all. He's got my vote for the Heisman."

If everything goes as planned, Collins might be knocking NFL defenders out of his roommate's way in a few years.

"Calvin has the potential and overall talent to play pro ball," Sherman said. "His height might be the only thing holding him back, but he definitely has the strength and agility."



Texas A&M junior guard Calvin Collins charges onto the field during team introductions at Kyle Field before the team's home opener against Louisiana State University last Saturday.



"I'm just a little boy trapped in a big man's body."

— Calvin Collins
Offensive Lineman

Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Sirr Parker: Heir to the throne

Parker was rated the top running back in 1995 in California.

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

Greg Hill had to wait for Darren Lewis.

Rodney Thomas had to wait for Greg Hill.

Leeland McElroy had to wait for Rodney Thomas.

Now, Texas A&M freshman Sirr Parker has to wait for Leeland McElroy to finish his career at Texas A&M to see if he can follow in the huge footsteps of recent Aggie tailbacks.

"I don't look at it as pressure," Parker said. "I look at it as what I was recruited to do. That's what I've been doing all my life. It's like waking up and brushing your teeth."

As a senior at Locke High School in Los Angeles, Parker was usually able to keep his

football uniform as pearly white as his teeth. In 10 games, Parker rushed for 1,129 yards and 19 touchdowns.

After the season, he was named to the All-USA second team by USA Today. SuperPrep magazine tabbed him as the No. 5 running back in the nation.

Highly recruited out of high school, Parker narrowed his college choices down to UCLA and Texas A&M. On national signing day, Parker called A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum during the Aggies' recruiting press conference to announce he was College Station-bound.

"I told him that I would call him when I knew," Parker said. "I wanted to wait until the day of to decide where I was going to go. I went with my gut feeling."

"UCLA was just too close to home, and the running back positions



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A&M freshman running back Sirr Parker makes a quick cut during practice.

Ensminger seeks perfect game

Heisman Trophy candidates are nothing new for Ensminger.

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Offensive Coordinator Steve Ensminger will admit that he is a perfectionist. In fact, his goal for the offense this season is to play a perfect game in which no errors are made.

"I'm excited about this season," Ensminger said. "Our goal is to have our offense go through an entire game without a mistake. No penalties or missed assignments, just to see how many points we can score. One reason I'm here is I want this team to be good and have every play be perfect."

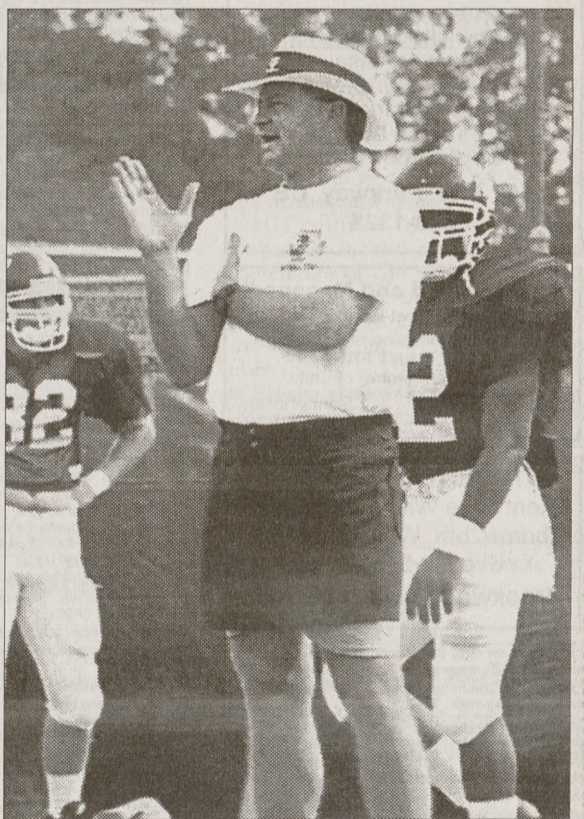
Ensminger came to A&M in 1994 from the University of Georgia. At Georgia, Ensminger was the passing game

coordinator and quarterback coach. Ensminger has made a smooth transition to A&M which he attributes to Head Coach R.C. Slocum and Defensive Line Coach Bill Johnson.

"The transition has been easy," Ensminger said. "R.C. has been a good friend, and I've known Bill Johnson from Louisiana Tech and McNeese State."

Ensminger came to an A&M team that had an established offense with quarterback Corey Pullig and running backs Rodney Thomas and Leeland McElroy. Those factors allowed Ensminger to try out new ideas.

"I had new ideas such as a three-wide out and four-wide outs system," Ensminger said. "Usually you can't really try out new things in a new system, but we had experience coming back, and we were able to put more plays in. There's no



Robyn Calloway, THE BATTALION

Offensive Coordinator Steve Ensminger looks over the Aggies' practice Thursday afternoon.

THE BATTALION'S 1995 STAFF PICKS

THE MATCH-UPS	Nick Georgandis	Kristina Buffin	David Winder	Tom Day	Lisa Nance	Philip Leone	Robin Greathouse	Rob Clark	Sterling Hayman	Stew Milne	Kyle Littlefield	Michael Landauer	Gretchen Perrenot	Stacy Stanton	Jody Holley	COMMENTARY
Texas Tech at #4 Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Texas Tech	Penn State	Penn State: Paterno outdresses Dykes
Iowa State at TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	Iowa State	TCU	TCU	TCU: Cyclones run out of air
Navy at SMU	SMU	SMU	Navy	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	Navy	SMU	SMU	SMU: Ponies unseat Midshipmen
La. Tech at Houston	La. Tech	La. Tech	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	La. Tech	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	La. Tech	La. Tech	Houston	La. Tech	UH: Cougars maul Ragin' Cajuns
Georgia at #6 Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Georgia	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee: Bulldogs Volunteer to lose
#25 Notre Dame at Purdue	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Purdue	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame: Purdue's no Northwestern ..
LSU at Mississippi State	LSU	LSU	MSU	LSU	LSU	MSU	LSU	MSU	LSU	MSU	LSU	MSU	LSU	MSU	MSU	LSU: Tigers prevent Rebel uprising
#12 UCLA at BYU	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	BYU	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA: Bruins win battle of acronyms
#16 Virginia at #23 NC St.	NC State	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	NC State	Virginia	NC State	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	NC State	NC State	Virginia	Virginia: Wolfpack roadkill for Cavaliers
Steelers at Oilers	Oilers	Steelers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Steelers	Oilers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Oilers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Oilers	Steelers: Oilers can't score, can't win ...
Broncos at Cowboys	Cowboys	Broncos	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Broncos	Cowboys	Cowboys: Deion or no Deion
Dolphins at Patriots	Patriots	Dolphins	Patriots	Dolphins	Dolphins	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Dolphins	Patriots	Patriots	Dolphins	Dolphins	Patriots: AFC East changing of the guard
Last Week	9-3	10-2	10-2	9-3	10-2	9-3	10-2	8-4	11-1	12-0	10-2	11-1	11-1	9-3	10-2	Milne begins title defense with 12-0 week
Cumulative	9-3	10-2	10-2	9-3	10-2	9-3	10-2	8-4	11-1	12-0	10-2	11-1	11-1	9-3	10-2	129-39? Take this bunch to Las Vegas ...